

REMARKS

The undersigned wishes to express his appreciation for Examiner Odland's time and consideration provided during a telephone interview on April 22, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner agreed to include Figure 1 in the flexible member subspecies group.

Applicants elect Invention group I, claims 1-26, Species III (Figures 17-18), the flexible member subspecies of Figure 1, the fastener subspecies of Figures 3A-C, and the release mechanism subspecies of Figures 9A-E. Claims 1-26 and new claims 31-38 are generic. Applicants further expressly reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the nonelected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming the benefit of this application under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Claim 7 has been amended, claims 27-30 cancelled without prejudice, and claims 31-38 added as mentioned above. No new matter is believed to be added by way of this amendment.

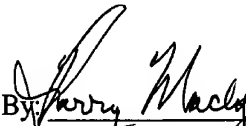
Regarding the title, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection. First, a title need not recite a novel feature. Second, and independent of the first, the present title is believed to be appropriate.

Applicants respectfully request the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date. If a telephone interview would advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and/or the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due, including additional claims fees, in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-1947 referencing Attorney Docket No. CSI-2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 28, 2004

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